

[Mason Todd]

AB pc [??] [??] 4-6 [Dup?] -

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So 20th

DATE Dec. 13, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant [Mason?] Todd 826 C St.
2. Date and time of interview Dec. 13, 1938. 10:30 a.m. to[1:00?]—2:30 p.m.
3. Place of interview Residence
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Acquaintance
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Old-fashioned parlor with old-fashioned settee in one corner, radio, old-fashioned bookcase, two over-stuffed chairs. C15- [?]

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So 20th

DATE Dec. 13, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mason Todd 826 C St.

1. Ancestry Negro

Library of Congress

2. Place and date of birth White Cloud, Kansas, [K?]
3. Family Two
4. Place lived in, with dates Lived in White Cloud until 1896. Lincoln 1897 - 1938.
5. Education, with dates Fifth grade
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Railroad porter and stock room employee harness factory
7. Special skills and interests Carpentering
8. Community and religious activities Methodist
9. Description of informant Squat dark skinned white-haired individual
10. Other points gained in interview

FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So 20

DATE Dec. 13, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mason Todd 826 C St.

"I've been in Lincoln since 1879. I came right up here from my home in White Cloud, Kansas. I was born in 1870, my mother and father had come from [Mo?]. where they had been slaves with some hundred ex-slaves where they formed a settlement.

Library of Congress

White Cloud during the early days of my youth had a population nearly equally divided between colored and white. Farming was the principal industry of both races, and the Negroes that didn't farm for themselves helped the poorer white farmers at harvest.

I remember one year when my daddy and us boys went over to help a white farmer to slaughter hogs. He had sent one of his boys over to get us one morning so we could start in. Just before he got to our farm a rattle bit him and some of us heard his crys.

After we found him the first thing my daddy did was to suck the wound to draw out the poison. In the meantime he had sent me [back?] to our place to get a live chicken and when I got back with it, my daddy cut the [he d?] of the chicken off and put the bleeding part to the wound. The boy got alright and never was bothered with the snake bite again.

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I came to Lincoln in '97 and before no time landed a job as railroad porter on the Burlington railroad. I was their about eighteen years, and then got a job in a stock room of a harness company where I stayed a long time, in fact until the harness industry wasn't profitable any more and my boss sold out. Since then I have been doing odd jobs of carpentering and house cleaning.